

Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Date: December 22, 2005

Inspector: Diana Walden

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane) and (345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill)

Storm/

Rain Event: Approximately 1.05" of precipitation fell mostly in the form of rain on 12/16 as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways	- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Road by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and a new area cleared from the station to the ROW. 12/22/05	-Most roads are in good shape and freezing conditions actually temporarily help the situation. Sedimentation is not an issue in most locations at this time but continue to monitor. 12/8-12/22/05
Composite	- With the cold weather, access roads and ROW were more frozen/stable. 12/8-12/22/05	- With freezing and thawing periods likely, additional measures for stability should be considered. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, it will have to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-12/22/05
	-Issues resulting from snow plowing were still present in a number of locations where snow and sediment had been piled over the silt fence. 12/22/05	- See erosion control section for more detail. 12/14-12/22/05.
345kV H-Frame	- Work recently started on Section 1 between Hoyts Hill and Gallows Hill Rd. An access road has been constructed off Chestnut Ridge Rd and includes mats placed to cross a stream and wetlands. Use of a private	- The road appears to be stable and the crossing was well installed. 12/22/05

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	<p>driveway has been authorized to access one foundation. 12/22/05</p> <p>-Another portion of the work is accessed through a road below the Bethel Reservoir. A large crossing was constructed of swamp mats over a stream here as well. 12/22/05</p>	<p>- The crossing was very well constructed and the stream was flowing clear. 12/22/05</p>
<p>Foundation construction</p> <p>Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>- Crews were working on pulling rope between the pole structures in preparation for line/cable pulling. 12/14-12/22/05</p> <p>- Preparations to remove old wooden poles were also noted in some areas. 12/22/05</p> <p>- A structure foundation had been installed near the driveway off Chestnut Ridge. A stockpile was resulting. 12/22/05</p>	<p>-None at this time. 12/22/05</p> <p>- None at this time. 12/22/05.</p> <p>- None at this time. Keep the stockpile contained until it is removed. 12/22/05</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event)</p> <p>Erosion and Sediment Controls</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>-Water has been flowing through/under the silt fence at the wetland crossing near Archers Lane. Turbidity was noted here. Silt fence should be extended where needed or toed in properly. 12/01-12/22/05. The area is not frozen at this point. 12/22/05</p> <p>- The ROW and roads had been very muddy but are now mostly frozen. 12/22/05</p> <p>- The 2nd structure in from Gallows Hill has had a bare soil/boulder slope adjacent to the wetland with controls still well in place. 11/23-12/22/05.</p> <p>- The sediment which drained to the wetland area is still present under the snow. This</p>	<p>- The silt fence should be extended, towed in, and/or repaired as necessary. When maintained, the silt fence does a very good job of keeping turbid water out of the wetlands. The controls should be repaired during thaw periods. 12/8-12/22/05.</p> <p>- Additional stability measures may be needed on the access road for equipment movement during thaw periods. 12/8-12/22/05</p> <p>- The area should be regraded, pulled back from the fence, and restored when feasible due to weather. 12/1-12/22/05</p> <p>- The sediment was not scraped up and removed prior to snow cover and is now</p>

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<p>Erosion controls continued</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>is located off the left fork of the access path to the ROW coming from the Archers Lane station. 11/17-12/22/05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues related to snow plowing were still present where snow and sediment was pushed over the controls in some places adjacent to wetlands. Controls were sagging here. 12/14-12/22/05. - Mats for stream crossings were well installed along the ROW. 12/22/05 -Silt fence was installed at the stockpile created near the foundation installation. 12/22/05 - Equipment tracking was noted in a wetland area resulting from accessing and skidding out trees. 12/22/05 -Create similar stone/fabric or timber wetland crossings where necessary on the access path in this section of the ROW. 12/22/05 	<p>difficult to see. Control all dewatering discharge especially near wetlands. 12/8-12/22/05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The snow needs to be pulled back from these areas and silt fence righted. 12/14-12/22/05 - None at this time. 12/22/05 - None at this time. 12/22/05 - It needs to be confirmed whether equipment movement in wetlands should be done on swamp mats and if trees should also be skidded out on the mats. The ruts should be repaired if possible. 12/22/05 - Any wetland crossings on the access path should be treated this way. 12/22/05
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p>Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings has worked well, but a few areas came untoed and turbid water continues to mix in now that the area has melted again. 12/8-12/22/05 - Snow plow and associated sediment piles still overwhelm the silt fence adjacent to wetland areas. This may distribute sediment when the snow melts. 12/14-12/22/05 - The stream crossings on the access roads are well protected with mats and the water is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The crossings have been used consistently. As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 12/22/05. Extend and/or toe in areas of silt fence where necessary to prevent additional turbidity during thaw periods. 12/8-12/22/05 - Pull the snow piles back and fix the silt fence. 12/14-12/22/05 - None at this time. 12/22/05

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	<p>running clear. 12/22/05</p> <p>- A wetland area was damaged by equipment tracking in order to access cleared trees.</p>	<p>- Its should be confirmed whether mats will be used for this purpose in wetlands from now on. 12/22/05</p>
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	<p>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-12/22/05.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and are likely in the process of hibernating. 12/22/05.</p>	<p>-Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year. 12/22/05</p>
Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)	<p>- Some minor clearing was noted along the access road on the composite section of the ROW, likely for the line pulling. 12/22/05</p> <p>- A large amount of clearing is underway for the H-frame section. Smaller trees and brush are being chipped on site (some chips will be removed) and larger trees may be utilized by landowners. 12/22/05</p>	<p>- None at this time. 12/22/05</p> <p>-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22/05</p> <p>- Do not leave chips on the ROW to a depth of more than 3" and do not place any in wetland areas. 12/22/05</p>
Dewatering	<p>- Dewatering was not noted at this inspection. 12/22/05</p>	<p>- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. 12/22/05</p>
Blasting	<p>-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 12/22/05.</p>	<p>-None at this time. 12/22/05.</p>

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Spills and Material Storage	- A small drip spot was noted under a piece of CL&P equipment parked near the 3 rd structure in from Gallows Hill. The soil should be picked up and disposed of. 12/22/05	- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Take care not to get carried away and to be vigilant when refueling. Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.
Additional Observations		

Next likely scheduled inspection:

Friday December 30, 2005

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Inspector's Signature: Diana Walden



(Composite Section): Photo on the left shows the 1st structure off Gallows Hill with all scaffolding removed and structure work complete. Photo on the right shows some minor clearing needed along the access road. 12/22/05



View of the access road near a low wetland area on the Archers Lane side. The silt fence is partially down and should be repaired. 12/22/05



Photo on the left is the low wetland crossing near Archers Lane where turbid water has been able to move under the fence to the wetland beyond. Photo on the right is looking at some snow plow issues where sediment was pushed over the silt fence. 12/22/05



Photo on the left shows a close up of another wetland crossing where the silt fence was overwhelmed/pushed down and needs repair. 12/22/05



Photo on the left shows preparation to remove an existing wood pole along the ROW. Photo on the right is of the (345kV H-frame section) looking along the ROW from Chestnut Ridge. A timber mat bridge was installed over a stream/wetland area. 12/22/05



(345kV H-Frame Section): Photo on the left shows a stockpile resulting from a foundation installation off Chestnut Ridge Rd. Photo on the right shows the major clearing that is occurring along the ROW near the Bethel Reservoir. 12/22/05



View of some tracking that had occurred in a wetland area in order to access some trees that needed to be cleared. We recommend that the trees are accessed and skidded out through wetlands on swamp mats. 12/22/05



Photo on the left is an additional view of the clearing for the ROW work. Photo on the right is a view of a good swamp mat crossing created over a small stream and wetlands for the access road into the ROW. 12/22/05